meeting at Bhubaneswar observed that in many States, the preliminary task of Activity Mapping across the three levels of Panchayats has been completed, however progress across States in the constitution of District Planning Committees has been uneven and somewhat slow. With a view to interacting with Panchayats and carrying out a review with authorities concerned of the progress in implementing the points for action mutually agreed to in the Round Tables, a process of visiting the States and UTs at the level of Union Minister for Panchayati Raj has been initiated. Fourteen States and two Union Territories have been covered so far, including Karnataka, West Bengal, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Goa, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Chandigarh. Each visit is concluded with a Statement of Conclusions jointly signed with the Chief Minister of the State concerned, laying out the points of action on which the State would move to operationalise the recommendations of the Round Tables. Most of these action points revolve around follow up measures on activity mapping, matching transfer of funds and functionaries, creation of Panchayat sector in the State budget, constitution and operational guidelines for District Planning Committees within an agreed time-frame.

(d) Most of the States are yet to transfer functions, funds and functionaries to Panchayati Raj Institutions. Chhattisgarh is yet to finalize activity mapping exercises assigning activities to the three levels of Panchayats. However, the State has informed that it has devolved administrative control of functionaries in respect of ten departments to Panchayats. The Panchayats have also recruited 30,000 teachers for schools at the level of Panchayats. The State has also constituted District Planning Committees. Some progress has, therefore, been made towards institutionalization of Panchayati Raj System in Chhattisgarh.

Reserved candidates under General Category

1711. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last Civil Service Examination 214 seats out of total 425 fell under general open merit seats and whether out of the 214 seat under general merit pool 50 candidates belonged to reserved categories (SC/ST/OBC etc.);

(b) whether 40 candidates belonging to OBCs securing selection under general merit category, were later excluded from general category by the UPSC and shifted to the reservation quota entitlement of 27 per cent for the OBCs (117 seats); and

(c) whether the selected candidates belonging to reserved categories are interviewed separately by the Board, segregating them from general pool candidates making them vulnerable to discrimination on account of their social background?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) No Sir. There were a total of 457 vacancies (242 General, 117 OBC, 66 SC and 32 ST) reported by various cadre controlling authorities for Civil Services Examination-2005. UPSC have recommended 425 candidates in the first instance out of which 210 belong to general cateogry, 117 to OBC, 66 to the SC and 32 to the ST. Of the OBC and SC candidates, 32 candidates have qualified without availing themselves of any of the concession/relaxation admissible to OBC and SC candidates.

(c) Interview of reserved category candidates is held separately by the Board so that they are not judged in comparison with general candidates and interview Board are prominently aware of the need of judging them by relaxed standards.

Tribal Officers

1712. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribals who are Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, and Joint Secretaries in Government of India;

(b) the number out of them who are in economic Ministries and how many in non-economic Ministries;

(c) the details thereof, Ministry-wise;

(d) whether there is any discrimination in their postings; and

(e) whether tribal are humiliated in Government of India postings in higher bureaucratic levels?